receiving from said computing device a noise-like output signal; and

additively applying the noise-like output signal to the document.

Please add new claims as follows:

33. The method of claim 22 in which the photo identification document includes printed text, and the multi-bit data corresponds to at least a part of said printed text.

34. The method of claim 22 wherein the multi-bit data comprises an index into a registry containing additional information.

35. The method of claim 22 in which the photo identification document includes printed text, and the multi-bit data is useful in cooperation with at least part of said printed text to verify authenticity of the document.

36. A plastic document produced in accordance with claim 22.

37. A driver's license produced in accordance with the method of claim 22.

38. The method of claim 22 wherein some regions of the document are not steganographically encoded.

39. The method of claim 22 wherein the encoding slightly changes a visible image on the document to encode the multi-bit data therein, the changes being adjusted in accordance with local characteristics of the visible image so as to avoid impairing the aesthetics thereof.

40. The method of claim 22 in which each bit of the multi-bit data is encoded at plural locations across the document, but the encoding of each said bit takes different forms at different locations.

41. The method of claim 22 in which the encoding includes texturing a surface micro-topology of the document to encode the plural binary bits therein.

42. The method of claim 22, further characterized by encoding a calibration signal in the photo, said calibration signal aiding the later decoding of the multi-bit data.

43. The method of claim 42 in which the calibration signal is not apparent to human observers of the document.

44. The method of claim 22 in which said encoding encompasses regions of the document distinct from any text or photo thereon.

45. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the steganographic encoding spans some, but not all, of the document.

46. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the steganographic encoding encompasses regions of the document distinct from any text or image thereon.

47. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which the encoding comprises slight changes to a visible image, the changes being tailored in accordance with local characteristics of the image so as to minimize impairing the aesthetics thereof.

48. The photo identification document of claim 18 in which each bit of the multi-bit data is encoded in plural locations across the document, but the encoding thereof is different at different locations.